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20. (AS ONCE AMENDED) The browser according to claim 19, wherein said importance degree control unit executes a process of an importance degree mark when the counted number of times of display of any Web page accessed by a URL exceeds a corresponding stored threshold value.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed September 21, 2001, claims 1-3 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Blades et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,420,975) ("Blades"), and claims 4-15 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blades in view of Nielson (U.S. Patent No. 5,854,630) ("Nielson"). The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

Figures 10C, 11B, 13B, and 13D, and claims 2, 12-14 and 16-20 are amended. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter.

A Version with Markings to Show Changes Made to the claims is included herewith. A Letter to the Examiner Requesting Approval of Changes to the Drawings and a Letter Submitting Drawings are filed concurrently herewith.

Blades:

Blades discloses a method and system for the automatic alternation of a display of multiple user selectable menu options (Blades, Abstract). Specifically, Blades discloses a method and system whereby multiple counters are used to track a user's menu option selections (Blades, col. 1, lines 64-65). The counters track the number of times that the user selects a particular menu and a particular selection within the menu (Blades, col. 2, lines 58-64). Blades discloses the use of one threshold value for each menu to determine where to alter the display of the menu options (Blades, col. 3, lines 1-8).

Nielson:

Nielson discloses a method for tracking selected URLs using a list and a pointer (Nielson, col. 4, line 18 - col. 6, line 5). Specifically, Nielson discloses a method whereby a selected URL is appended to the end of a list and a pointer is updated to the current URL. Further, Nielson discloses a method for selecting a URL from the list as the current selection (col. 6, lines 42-54).

Blades and Nielson:

The combination of Blades and Nielson discloses a method and system for the automatic alternation of a display of a menu of multiple URLs. In the combined system, multiple counters are used to track the number of times that a user selects a particular URL. One threshold value for each menu is used to determine where to alter the display of all URLs within the menu.

In contrast to the foregoing references relied upon, the present invention, as recited in each of independent claims 2, 13, 16, and 19, (using the recitation of claim 2 as an example) counts "a number of times of display of any image accessed by the unique identifying information", "stores a plurality of identifying information which respectively correspond to a plurality of threshold values" and sets "an importance degree mark when the counted number of times of display of any image accessed by the unique identifying information exceeds a corresponding stored threshold value".

Claims 3-12 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 2. Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13; claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 16; and claim 20 depends from claim 19.

The remarks in regard to the above claims are incorporated as if set forth herein. The foregoing dependent claims of the present application (as amended herein) patentably distinguish over Blades in view of Nielson because the combination of Blades and Nielson does not disclose or suggest the other services that the present invention performs. The present invention, using claim 17 of the present application as an example, teaches "registering a web page which has been displayed greater than the threshold number to a bookmark." Further, using claims 18 of the present application as an example, the present invention teaches "notifying users that a threshold value of a number of times of display has been exceeded through display in a web page."

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections of claims 2-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Blades and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Blades in view of Nielson is respectfully requested.

Figures:

Figures 10C, 11B, 13B, and 13D are amended for clarification. The amendments to Figures 10C, 11B, 13B, and 13D are presented in the Letter to the Examiner Requesting Approval of Changes to the Drawings filed concurrently herewith. Also filed concurrently


herewith is a Submission of Drawings submitting clean copies of Figures 10C, 11B, 13B, and 13D as amended in the subject Letter.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited. Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters. If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

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IN THE CLAIMS:

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Please CANCEL claim 1.

Please AMEND the following claims:

2. (ONCE AMENDED) A viewer [as claimed in claim 1] to display images which are accessible by an associated identifying information, said viewer comprising:
a definition management note to store a number of times of display of any image which has been accessed by an associated unique identifying information; and
an importance degree control unit to count a number of times of display of any image accessed by the unique identifying information, wherein said importance degree control unit outputs the number for storage by said definition management note, wherein
said definition management note stores a plurality of identifying information which respectively correspond to a plurality of threshold values, and
said importance degree control unit executes a process of setting an importance degree mark when the counted number of times of display of any image accessed by the unique identifying information exceeds a corresponding stored threshold value.

12. (ONCE AMENDED) A viewer as claimed in claim [1] 2, wherein said viewer is a browser that displays Web pages accessed via the Internet as the images, and said importance degree control unit counts URLs as the identifying information, said viewer further comprising:
an automatic registration control unit to register Web pages that have been displayed greater than a threshold value to a bookmark.

13. (ONCE AMENDED) A viewing method using a browser to display Web pages having associated URLs, comprising [the steps of]:
storing a plurality of threshold values which respectively correspond to the associated URLs;
counting a number of times of display of a Web page accessed by an associated URL; and
executing a particular process when the counted number of times exceeds [a] one of threshold [value] values associated with the URL, said particular process including setting

an importance degree mark when the counted number of times of display of the Web page exceeds the one of the threshold values.

14. (ONCE AMENDED) The viewing method according to claim 13, wherein the particular process notifies users that [a] the threshold value of a number of times of display has been exceeded through display in a Web page.

16. (ONCE AMENDED) A display method of an image which is accessible by an associated identifying information, said display method comprising [the steps of]:

storing a plurality of threshold numbers which respectively correspond to associated unique identifying information;

storing a number of times of display of any image which has been accessed by an associated unique identifying information; and

counting a number of times of display of any image accessed by the unique identifying information;

comparing the number of times of display of an image accessed by the unique identifying information with a threshold number associated with the unique identifying information; and

setting an importance degree mark when the counted number of times of display exceeds the threshold number.

17. (ONCE AMENDED) The viewing method according to claim 16, wherein [said] the counting [step] counts a number of times of display of Web pages accessed with a browser via the Internet, and wherein the unique identifying information is a URL, and further comprising [the step of]:

registering a Web page which has been displayed greater than the threshold number to a bookmark.

18. (ONCE AMENDED) The viewing method according to claim 16, wherein said browser displays Web pages via the Internet, further comprising [the step of]:

notifying users that a threshold value of a number of times of display has been exceeded through display in a Web page.

19. (ONCE AMENDED) A browser to display a Web page accessed via the Internet by an associated URL, said browser comprising:

a definition management note to store a number of times of display of any Web page which has been accessed by an associated URL, wherein the definition management note stores a plurality of URLs that respectively corresponds to a plurality of threshold values; and

an importance degree control unit to count a number of times of display of any Web page accessed by the URL, wherein said importance degree control unit outputs the number for storage by said definition management note.

20. (ONCE AMENDED) The browser according to claim 19, wherein

[said definition management note stores a plurality of URLs which respectively correspond to a plurality of threshold values, and]

said importance degree control unit executes a process of an importance degree mark when the counted number of times of display of any Web page accessed by a URL exceeds a corresponding stored threshold value.

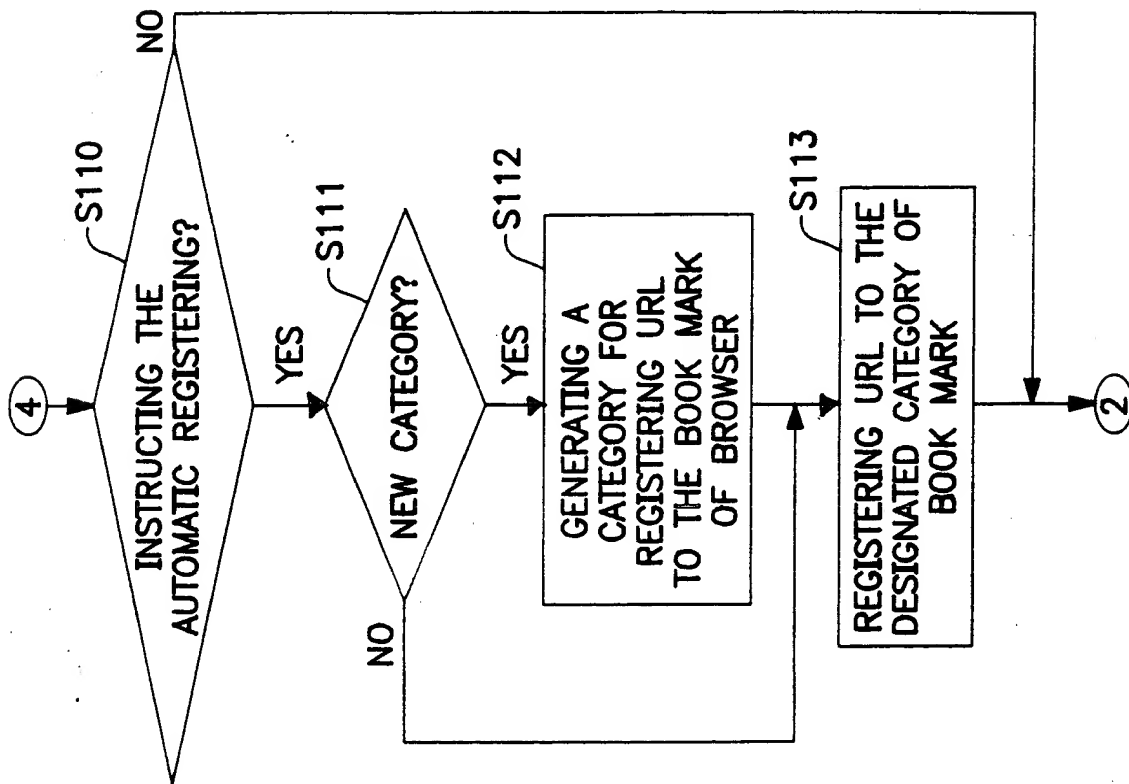


FIG. 10C

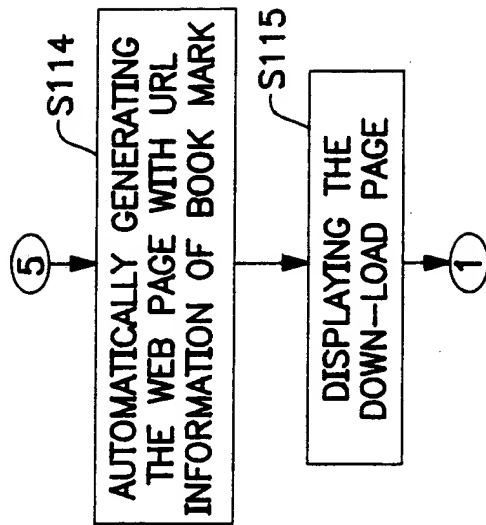


FIG. 10D

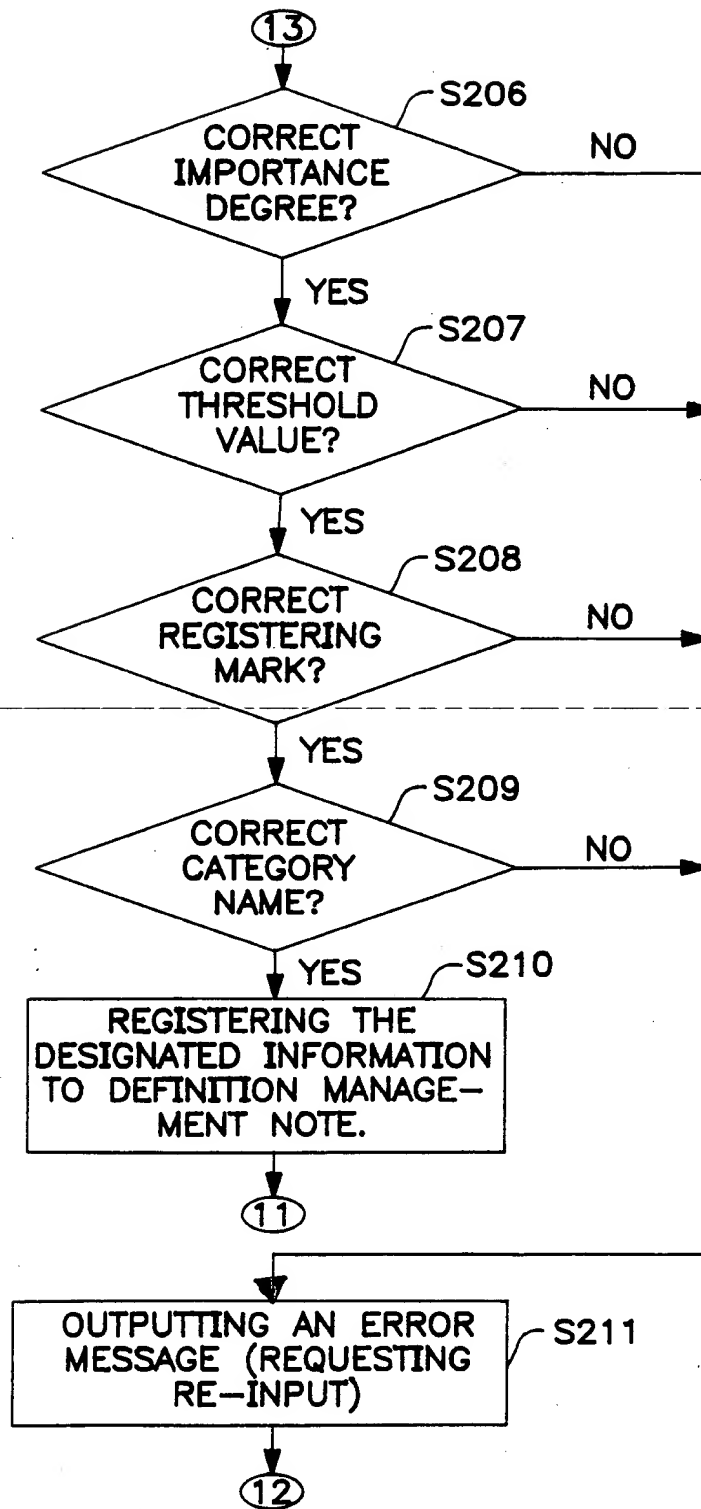


FIG. IIB

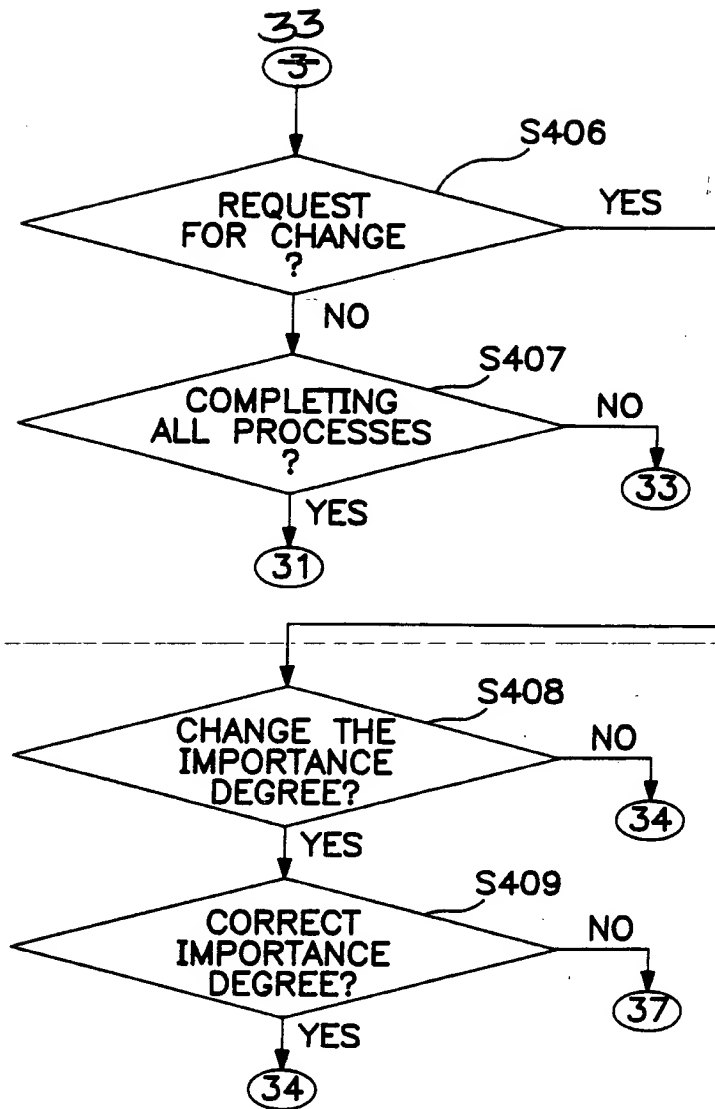


FIG. 13B

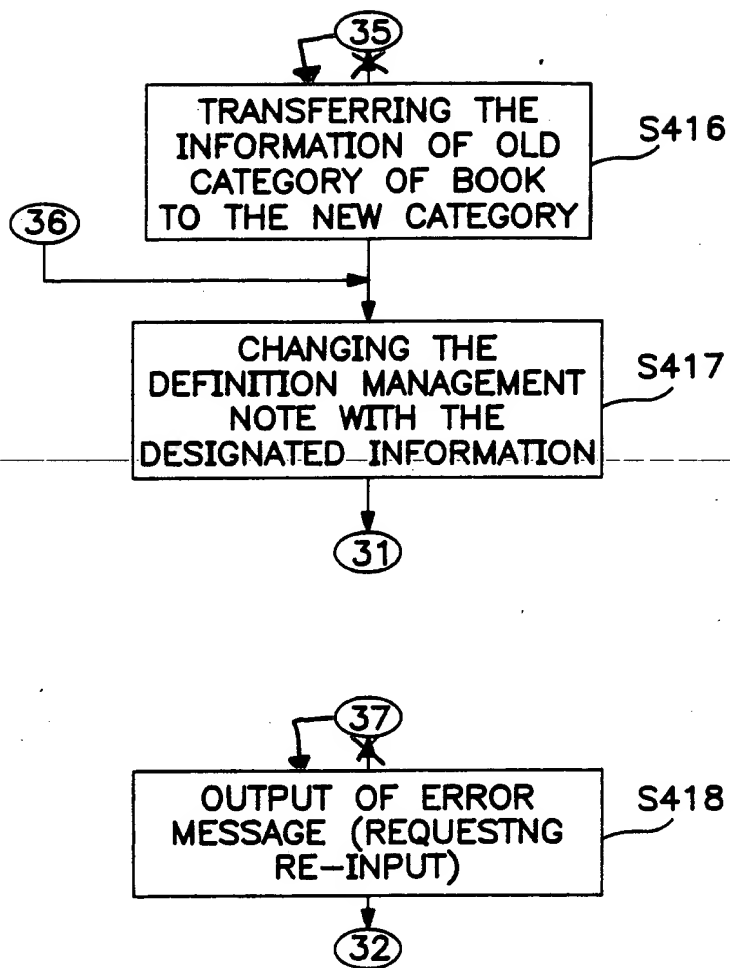


FIG. 13D